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S E C R E T AMMAN 005764

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL MARR MOPS IZ JO UNSC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NEW UNSC RESOLUTION COULD HELP JORDAN DO MORE FOR IRAQ

REF: STATE 256598

Classified By: Amb. Edward W. Gnehm for reasons 1.5 (b)(d)

**¶1.** (C) The proposed new U.S. draft UN Security Council Resolution on Iraq contains several elements that will please the Jordanians. First, it asks that Iraqis come up with a timetable for transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis. Senior Jordanian officials have repeatedly encouraged the coalition to go public with a reasonable -- and achievable -- timetable for formation of an elected Iraqi government and full transfer of authority. Second, the UNSCR draft mandates a UN force and asks other nations to contribute. This could provide Jordan the international cover it needs to support a stabilization force in Iraq more actively and directly.

**¶2.** (S) We believe that a new resolution as outlined in ref would go a long way toward addressing Jordan's domestic political complexities should it commit police or military forces for Iraq. The resolution would give a multinational force "international legitimacy" in the eyes of most Jordanians, and there would likely be less strident domestic objection to a Jordanian contribution.

**¶3.** (S) COMMENT: There is still considerable latent resentment in Jordan over the presence of foreign "occupiers" in Iraq, and many Jordanians -- including Islamist members of Parliament -- could accuse the GOJ of supporting "occupation" by contributing troops to a UN force. Given these and broader Arab reservations, we believe that it will be difficult for the King to participate overtly in a UN force without other Arab participation. That said, we note that the deployment of a Jordanian Armed Forces field hospital in Falluja has drawn little domestic criticism.

**¶4.** (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

GNEHM